

Constitution Revision Is Proposition 1 on Ballot

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR
Capitol News Service
SACRAMENTO — This column for the next few weeks, will deal with ballot propositions to be voted on by the people at the Nov. 5 general election. There are nine propositions in all, and probably one additional when and if the legislature adopts a property tax relief proposal.

Proposition 1 is the second phase of the Constitutional Revision Commission's effort to effect complete revision of the state's basic

law. The first phase, adopted in 1966, among other things, raised salaries of legislators and provided for annual regular sessions of the state legislature.

The second phase deals with the initiative and referendum, public education, state institutions, public buildings, counties and cities, corporations, public utilities, appropriation of water, homesteads and public lands, state civil service, and further procedures for amending and revising the constitution.

This is a large package to be handed the voters all in one gulp, but on the other hand, the commission is attempting to complete one phase at a time. The third phase will come in 1970.

Perhaps the most controversial of the changes suggested by the legislature when it voted to submit the amendment to the public is the question of selection of the state superintendent of public instruction.

Under the new proposal, the officer would be made the executive secretary to the board of education.

Presently, the superintendent is elected by the people of the state. The amendment does not change this procedure, but does give the legislature the power by two-thirds vote to provide for the superintendent's selection by any method it chooses.

Thus, the legislature could continue the office as elective, or it could make the superintendent an appointee of either the governor or the state board of education.

The latter choice probably would be selected, then it is

specific the superintendent is the executive officer of the state board of education, and historically, executive officers are chosen by the boards they serve.

The amendment also provides that the state board, at state expense, would provide a series of textbooks for use in elementary schools.

The present requirement that the legislature fix a minimum amount of money for support of public schools is replaced by a provision that it grant "basic financial aid" to each school district

in the state. Also, the composition of the present school system would be changed, and the legislature given the power to provide school districts and intermediate units by statute, to be governed by boards and executive officers.

Affecting cities and counties, the new amendment would give the governing body of general law counties authority to fix salaries of its officers. This now is done by the legislature, which handles scores of bill on the subject at each session.

Under civil service, provisions would be revised to exempt employees of the lieutenant-governor's office from the system, and would create additional exempt positions within the state structure.

Although some legislators favor adoption of the amendment, there is some opposition, on the grounds that it would remove certain guarantees from the people, including the guarantee of local control over local affairs, particularly in the school districts.

Your Right to Know Is the Key to All Your Liberties

-Comment and Opinion-

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1968

A Park for the Pueblo

Agreement this past week between the city and American Standard, Inc., on terms of a lease moves the Pueblo area of the city one step closer to a long-sought park.

The lease provides for the city to develop a two-acre area in the Pueblo as a neighborhood park — a project which residents of the area have worked toward for several years.

The city already has taken steps to acquire two lots necessary for access to the American Standard land, which is to be leased for a cost of \$1 per year. Escrow was opened on the two lots Wednesday.

Development of the park has been given top priority rating by the City Council.

The new park will provide recreational facilities for an often neglected section of the city—a place where youngsters can gather out of the streets.

American Standard and the city are to be congratulated for their efforts to develop the park. Congratulations also are in order for the residents of the Pueblo, whose patience and persistence have finally brought some dividends.

Tighten Federal Belt

Our paychecks are now reflecting the 10 per cent surcharge in income taxes voted by Congress. Although this tax increase is due to expire next year on June 30, some people are already talking about extending it.

In enacting the tax increase, Congress also required a \$6 billion drop in federal expenditures and a \$10 billion cut in spending authority for fiscal 1969.

Both the tax increase and the reduction in federal spending are now the law of the land. The tax increase is a fact, but expenditure control is still to be realized.

As taxpayers, we are not in a position to postpone or to delay pay-

ments of our share of the burden, but there are many delays in the spending cuts. When the Congress recessed for the national conventions . . . here is what had happened: Congress had cut \$3 billion from the Administration's request for \$186.1 billion in fiscal 1969. Because of anticipated increases of \$700 million in price support payments and \$300 million in federal expenditures for welfare, the Administration will have to cut \$4 billion from its other spending plans.

We taxpayers had no choice but to expect the federal government to do likewise.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Freeway Route Would Affect Schools, Park

To the Editor:
An enormous number of homeowners went to the Torrance Council meeting last week prepared to present our case against certain proposed freeway routes. We were very surprised to find that there was enough time for the Council to find the Torrance Planning Commission had acted illegally in recommending the "blue-yellow" route — but the Council did not have time to tell the homeowners their cases would not be heard until later in the month.

Mayor Isen made it plain he favors the "red" route, and we wonder if he owns property or a house on the "blue-yellow" route, and how many councilmen will let their own interests override other considerations?

No member of the Council lives in the area of the "red" route evidently. Many must live along the "green" route because this route is known to be out of the running according to all statements and the concern evidently shown between making a choice of the "blue" or "red." Yet we remember your paper printed the map and route descriptions that stated the "green" route incorporated the most undeveloped land.

Mayor Isen emphasized the case for using "industrial

land" which is along the far end of the "red" route. We did not hear him mention the outstanding number of elementary schools and other schools along this route as it enters Torrance — or the fact that the route runs through a much-used, long established, neighborhood park.

Those who will use the freeway to come from outside our city to their industrial interests are not the people who cast votes in Torrance.

Torrance voters are waiting to find if their elected officials will disregard the interests of school children and long established homeowners and choose a route

that uses mostly Torrance property.

Perhaps we should all have information on exactly how many councilmen would be personally concerned by adoption of any one of the proposed routes. It would be interesting.

Sincerely,
(MRS) ENID HAMILTON,
4765 Spencer St.

Quote

"He who lives at high tension usually blows a fuse." — Harold S. May, The Florence (Ala.) Herald.

★ ★ ★
"There's nothing wrong with having nothing to say—but don't say it aloud." — Bryce Van Horn, The Fillmore (Calif.) Herald.

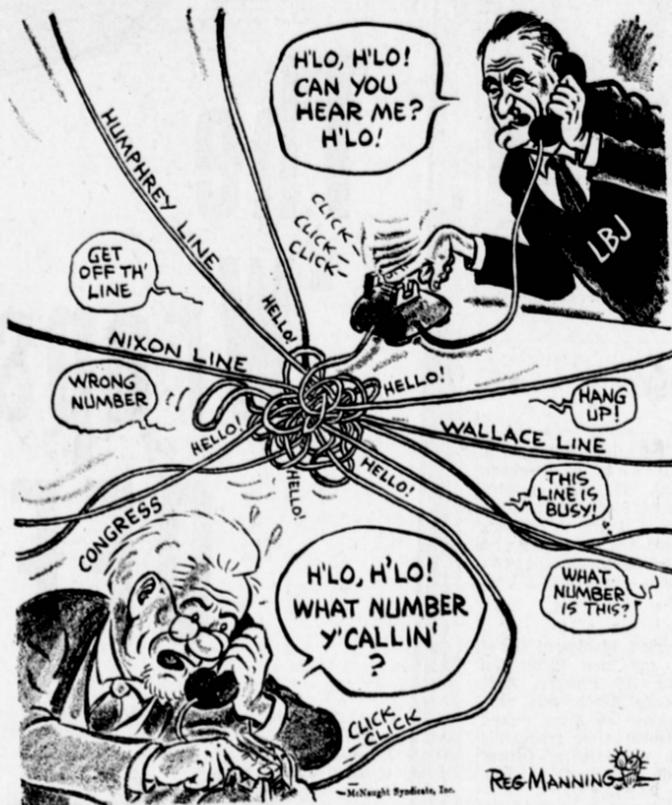
★ ★ ★
"A lot of people dislike television so much that they sit up half the night glaring at it." — Ray Savage, Thermopolis (Wyo.) Independent Record.

★ ★ ★
"When the day ever comes that editors of America are muzzled then that will be the day that freedom dies." — Sid R. Harris, Times Post, Houston, Miss.

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The Direct Wire Is Now a Party Line



ROYCE BRIER

Democrat's War Plank Humphrey's Big Burden

For upward of a century American political parties have adopted platform planks opposed in some measure by the men they nominate. The technique has been to repudiate them or ignore them when possible.

Nominees thus enter a campaign carrying a burden, and on vital issues the burden can be heavy. Few candidates have borne the burden of Hubert Humphrey in the war plank adopted by the Democratic Convention.

The Chicago plan substantially supports President Johnson's position on Vietnam. It calls for cessation of bombing when it won't "endanger" the lives of our troops, and after there is adequate peace response by Hanoi. As nobody wants to "endanger" anybody, the Hanoi clause is controlling.

The anti-war faction offered a plank calling for unconditional cessation of bombing North Vietnam, and other conciliatory measures. It was defeated.

Mr. Humphrey may be faced with either repudiating or ignoring the winning plank, depending on development of the Vietnam issue in the campaign. If he stands on the plank he could further split the party he is striving at this moment to heal and unify.

But he has plenty of precedents for repudiating the

Opinions on Affairs
of the World

plank if he decides he must, one case which shook the nation late in the Civil War. In the summer of 1864 the Democratic Party was split wide open between War Democrats, who supported Lincoln, and Peace Democrats, who wanted to end the war even if it meant dealing with the Confederacy.

The peace party met in Chicago in late August. It adopted a plank reading: "After four years of experi-

ment to save the Union by war . . . the public welfare demands immediate efforts for a cessation of hostilities . . ." Following passages made it a "negotiated" peace document.

George McClellan, late commander of the Army of the Potomac, now a general without assignment, did not seek the Chicago nomination, but easily won it.

But Sept. 8 he wrote to the convention chairman, accepting the nomination, but repudiating the peace plank. He was willing to restore the Union with slavery (which Lincoln no longer accepted), but he insisted it be restored, saying "no peace can be without it."

McClellan, if an unsuccessful general, was a magnetic one, and had the sentimental support of thousands of soldiers. But by repudiating the plank he lost support of many who wanted out of the war by any means, and he lost many Copperheads who decided he was no better than Lincoln. He was defeated, though he polled 1.8 million out of 4 million votes.

There is no direct analogy in the circumstances surrounding Humphrey and McClellan (the country then was far more angry than it is today), but there is a parallel in the choices offered General McClellan and Mr. Humphrey.

It is recounted here for what it is worth, and as throwing a historical sidelight on Mr. Humphrey's dilemma. He may not move farther to divorce himself from the Johnson position than the vague step he took in his acceptance speech. Nobody can say, not even he.

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Crown Prince Is a Swinger

San Francisco

In town recently and incognito hoping to duck the dull protocol: the Crown Prince of Nepal, 22 years old, educated at Eton and Harvard, and something of a swinger. Hardly here but he set out on a double date, by which I mean he was flanked by two long-legged beauties. . . . A thick-thick lady TV interviewer, struggling on the air with a salty young activist, asked him at one point: "Do you really think there's a generation gap?" The reply: "Yes, lady, right between your ears!" . . . W. C. Fields, Lucius Beebe and other titanic tipplers died none too soon. But on the market here now: Martinis in cans! With Pull-tabs too yet.

Mrs. Lamont Saxton, a fine reader of fine print, found this classified ad in the Los Altos Town Crier: "Will the woman who left her dentures on a mattress and her child's sucker on the piano keys please call and claim both? 941-0352" (a furniture store). . . . Novelist Arthur "Airport" Hailey, currently cruising the back roads of Europe, forwards this mystifying "Personal" from the Int'l Herald-Tribune: "Cilla Nisbet: Diana at letter. Please write again, have no address. L. Barthele." . . . And here's a lovely typographical error in a big headline on the Seattle Times' financial page: "Want to Learn Ladies? Just Join Incestment Club."

A retired judge disagrees that compassion is a necessary virtue for judges. "Most important," he says, "is the ability to look a lawyer in the eye without hearing a word he says. The second and final requisite is a strong bladder." . . . Maybe you had to be there: Singer Jack Jones and his Jill (St. John) were dawdling over dinner at L'Etoile one night recently when, at 9:29 p.m., he suddenly leaped out of the booth, shouted a strangled "Omigod-I've-got-a-show-at-9:30!" and was seen legging it up California St. toward the Fairmont, where, fortunately, his first song was "Breathless." Stuck with the check: Jill. . . . A guest at Laurance Rockefeller's lavish Mauna Kea Hotel in Hawaii said to him: "I'll bet it'll take a hundred years to pay this place off." Laurance, calmly: "I can wait."

A Letter To My Son

By Tom Rische
High School Teacher and Youth Worker

Dear Bruce:

When your mother and I recently visited England, one thing that struck us was the British near-worship of old things — traditions, crumbling castles, and antiques. In contrast, we Americans like to brag about having the newest and biggest of everything.

We took a tour of Oxford University, where our guide delighted in pointing out the oldest buildings, assuring us that they were restored to look just like they did when built. She pointed out that the choir still holds a steeple-top concert at 6 a.m. every May 1, just as they have done for hundreds of years, and school bells still chime 101 times at 8:05 p.m., honoring the 101 students originally enrolled in the school.

Although the British Empire has shrunk from the days when the "sun never set on it," the English cling to old traditions and ceremonies, reliving olden days. The recent devaluation of the pound seems to have awakened them a bit, as humorous but pointed posters urge citizens to "buy British."

I think the British overdo the business of tradition — when a new idea is offered, somebody jumps up and says "We never did it that way before." Nonetheless, some of their traditions offer a certain comfort and sense of pride.

In America's frantic race toward the future, we rip down our old buildings and throw out old traditions. Some Europeans say that Americans seem in a terrible hurry, but they're not sure where they are going.

Nevertheless, America has moved ahead because it has been willing to try new ideas and has thought that people are more important than ceremonies. An article in a London paper noted that only about half of the English youth who want to get into college can do so. There just isn't enough room, and the government doesn't seem in a hurry to make more space.

Your for tradition—but not too much,
YOUR DAD

Morning Report:

This Presidential election between two losers—Humphrey lost to Jack Kennedy in the 1960 primaries and Nixon lost to him in the finals that year—promises to be different in other ways too.

The New Leftists and others of the disenfranchised young are short on votes but long on energy. And they already have announced their plans on how they will use it. They hope for a "hundred Chicagos" to upset the police, confuse political issues, and create disturbances in the cities. Also, at least one of their leaders is talking about sit-ins at the polling places. It will work in some places.

Democracy is vulnerable to such tactics because it only is effective if these in the minority at any given election are willing to accept both the written and unwritten rules of the game.

Abe Mellinkoff